
JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Volume 18

Number 1



2007

1906-S Barber Half Dollar



**Counterstamped on both sides with different numbers
inside the large "D"**

See page 21

Photo courtesy of Steve Szczerbiak

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JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

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BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Barber Society first *Journal* issue for 2007.

Our organization is healthy as to members, finances and the caliber of this *Journal*. We all have enjoyed and benefited from the Barber Quarter survey. Don't forget to complete the half dollar sheet or do this online. John Frost has done an outstanding job on this the first survey in organizing, compiling and interpreting the findings. I can now replace the very old results with these new data.

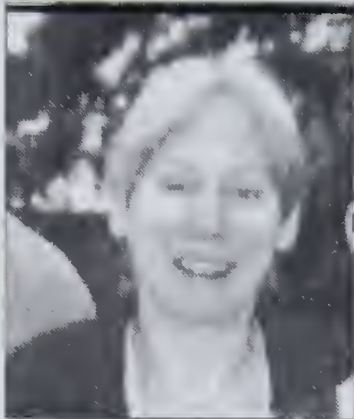
The coin market and hobby is basically well. The January FUN Show seemed to generate auction sales beyond belief (at least \$75 million). I read one comment that dealers at these major shows complain that bourse sales are slow(er) due to the large purchases at the auctions. I continue to be interested in where our members acquire coins. You could send a one-line email with all the sources you have utilized recently.

This summer, ANA World's Fair of Money (i.e., the ANA Convention) will be held in Milwaukee from August 8 to 12. The Barber Society meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 11 at 9:00 AM in the Midwest Airlines Convention Center. Verify this time at the convention. Milwaukee has a great reputation for coin shows, and is a friendly and affordable city. See you there.

On other ANA matters, the Barber Society will nominate Patti Jagger-Finner for Vice President and Joseph E. Boling and Clifford Mishler for Governor positions. I feel this fine organization has reached a critical point and believe these individuals have strength, integrity and concern for ANA members and staff.

Eileen received with a member's Barber 50c survey an interesting request: could we publish an article concerning cleaned coins and how to create (artificial) toning? I think we would not encourage the writing or publication of such a paper. There is a matter of falsification and the ethics of artificial toning of coins. While there are books and website instructions on this subterfuge, I don't think an individual wants to be the buyer of such a coin. One question to ask is why buy a cleaned coin (or why clean a coin)? If this cleaned example is the best available, why not leave it as is? I'd welcome any comment on this provocative topic.

Numismatic regards,
Phil Carrigan
Philrph1892@cs.com



BCCS EDITOR'S MESSAGE

The 2006 Literary Contest ballot results are on page 12. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to those members who submitted articles. Though perhaps not a prize winner, each one received votes which means it was appreciated and enjoyed by your fellow BCCS members. I invite each of you to please consider sharing your thoughts, opinions, and stories through an article, email or letter for this year's *Journal*.

Those of you who have not as yet renewed your 2007 BCCS membership will find a renewal form inside your *Journal*. Please send in your annual dues as soon as possible.

A member wrote "So many coins I found had some problems in condition - edge bumps, scratches, but mostly cleaned, some really shiny. Could you possibly run an article on how to re-tone the cleaned coins?" I have learned that while some collectors avoid toned coins, other collectors prefer them. Coins can be deliberately toned. I found a website that gave explicit "how-to" instructions. A quick (though most definitely not the best) way to do so is to hold the coin over a lit match. It can be toned gradually by placing the coin in a brown manila envelope and leaving it in the sun. (It should be checked daily.) Coins left in cardboard folders will tone around the edges naturally over time. Measures can also be taken to prevent toning.

Toned vs. untoned? That seems a simple matter of preference. Deliberate vs. natural toning? That seems more problematic. Is it acceptable? Can you tell a naturally toned coin from an artificially toned one? Like cleaning, does artificial toning detract from the value of a coin? Share your thoughts on this topic through a note or email to be included in a future *Journal*.

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS June 1st

Estimating the Scarcity of Circulated Barber Dimes

by **Rich Dula**

As I did last year with Barber quarters, I surveyed Barber dimes in circulated grades of AG through AU being offered on eBay. I believe this gives us a good opportunity to view what is being offered for sale nationwide by fellow collectors and dealers.

Initially, I was concerned that the modest value of many Barber dimes would discourage people from listing and bidding on them due to the listing fees/shipping costs involved. However, this did not appear to be as big a factor as I feared, as over 1000 Barber dimes were listed. Many dimes were listed in lots of five or more to raise the value of the lot which also presented the opportunity to obtain starter sets for newer collectors.

As I did previously, coins with no pictures/scans or coins where the grade could not be determined because of poor pictures/scans were not included in this survey. I viewed each and every lot and graded them according to photograde as many grades listed (even in some slabbed coins) were inaccurate to say the least. The only change in this survey is that I viewed coins in groups (by date and mint mark) over a period of weeks as there were simply too many to be viewed in one day.

<u>Date</u>	<u>AG</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>VG</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>XF</u>	<u>AU</u>	<u>Total</u>
1892	2	6	3	3	2	1	1	18
1892-O	2	3	2	2	0	1	0	10
1892-S	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
1893/2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1893	2	3	2	0	2	0	0	9
1893-O	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	5
1893-S	2	3	0	1	0	1	0	7
1894	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	4
1894-O	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
1895	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	4
1895-O	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
1895-S	4	4	1	1	2	0	0	12
1896	1	5	2	1	1	0	0	10

<u>Date</u>	<u>AG</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>VG</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>XF</u>	<u>AU</u>	<u>Total</u>
1896-O	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
1896-S	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
1897	1	6	1	1	0	3	0	12
1897-O	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
1897-S	2	8	0	1	0	0	0	11
1898	1	6	0	2	0	2	2	13
1898-O	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
1898-S	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
1899	0	6	1	2	0	4	0	13
1899-O	3	1	4	1	0	0	0	9
1899-S	2	4	1	1	1	0	1	10
1900	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	8
1900-O	1	5	0	2	0	0	0	8
1900-S	0	4	1	2	4	1	0	12
1901	2	6	3	1	2	2	2	18
1901-O	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	6
1901-S	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	7
1902	7	10	0	2	2	3	0	24
1902-O	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	4
1902-S	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	6
1903	4	3	2	1	1	2	0	13
1903-O	0	5	2	0	0	2	1	10
1903-S	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
1904	3	8	0	3	0	0	1	15
1904-S	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
1905	4	19	1	2	0	2	1	29
1905-O	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	4
Micro-O	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
1905-S	0	6	2	0	1	0	2	11
1906	6	10	0	4	3	1	1	25
1906-D	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	7
1906-O	0	1	3	2	2	0	0	8
1906-S	1	1	1	1	3	1	0	8
1907	6	18	3	2	2	2	5	38
1907-D	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	5
1907-O	1	3	2	2	1	0	0	9
1907-S	1	2	1	5	1	1	0	11
1908	5	4	1	2	1	3	2	18
1908-D	2	5	1	5	1	2	3	19
1908-O	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	5
1908-S	0	5	1	1	2	0	0	9
1909	3	9	1	1	0	2	0	16

<u>Date</u>	<u>AG</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>VG</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>XF</u>	<u>AU</u>	<u>Total</u>
1909-D	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	4
1909-O	2	2	3	1	0	0	0	8
1909-S	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
1910	4	6	4	3	0	1	3	21
1910-D	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	6
1910-S	0	3	3	2	1	1	0	10
1911	9	30	4	2	1	2	1	49
1911-D	0	9	4	0	1	3	1	18
1911-S	1	7	5	0	1	0	1	15
1912	6	23	4	2	1	5	2	43
1912-D	4	18	4	2	3	0	3	34
1912-S	1	4	2	2	1	0	0	10
1913	5	32	7	7	8	6	9	74
1913-S	1	18	2	0	1	0	0	22
1914	2	20	3	4	3	5	2	39
1914-D	0	18	6	6	5	4	2	41
1914-S	1	5	3	2	2	2	0	15
1915	1	20	4	2	2	2	2	33
1915-S	2	3	3	2	1	0	0	11
1916	1	25	5	0	5	4	3	43
1916-S	2	6	2	1	1	0	0	12
<u>Totals</u>	134	475	123	104	80	76	54	1046
<u>%totals</u>	12.80%	45.40%	11.80%	9.90%	7.60%	7.30%	5.20%	100%

General Observations

Dates/MMs with 0-5 appearances:

1892-S (4), 1893/2 (0), 1893-O (5), 1894 (4), 1894-O (4), 1895 (4), 1895-O (3), 1896-O (4), 1896-S (3), 1897-O (5), 1898-O (3), 1898-S (3), 1902-O (4), 1903-S (2), 1904-S (3), 1905-O (4), 1905-O micro O (2), 1907-D (5), 1906 (5), 1909-D (4), and 1909-S (2)

Dates/MMs with 6-10 appearances:

1892-O (10), 1893 (9), 1893-S (7), 1896 (10), 1899-S (10), 1900 (8), 1900-O (8), 1901-O (6), 1901-S (7), 1902-S (6), 1903-O (10), 1906-D (7), 1906-O (8), 1906-S (8), 1907-O (9), 1908-S (9), 1908-S (9), 1909-O (8), 1910-D (6), 1910-S (10), and 1912-S (10)

41 of the 76 dates/MMs, or 54% of the Barber Dime series, had 10 or less appearances.

609 of the observed 1046 coins, or 58%, were in the grades of AG and Good.

Ten coins with the most appearances:

1913 (74), 1911 (49), 1912 (43), 1916 (43), 1914-D (41), 1914 (39), 1907 (38), 1912-D (34), 1915 (33), and 1905 (29).

These 10 dates accounted for 40% of all the listings.

Coins from the 1890's are all scarcer than their mintages would indicate. Nice problem-free coins are even scarcer - I would estimate 40% of the coins from the 1890's that I viewed were unattractive due to harsh cleaning, scratches/digs, or just plain damage. I suspect some were metal detector fines due to surface pitting as well as harsh cleaning.

Many of the key dates were actually quite attractive for their grade. Perhaps these dates, being the most expensive of the series, were in the hands of serious collectors who knew not to abuse them.

There are many new third party grading services that frankly do not know how to grade. Many coins were over-graded by two grades. Just because a coin is in a plastic slab does not guarantee a correct grade. Any new collector must learn how to grade the coins he/she is interested in, and the Barber coins are not that difficult to grade in circulated conditions.

Viewing a large amount of coins will give the viewer knowledge many others may not possess. For example, when viewing the 1894-P dimes, the three dimes in AG and Good were all weakly struck in the exact same places. In fact, the two in Good appeared identical. Perhaps an 1894-P with a strong strike is a coin worthy of a premium price. At any rate, it appears scarcer than thought and perhaps a bargain at current price levels.

Another feature I had noticed on some of the dimes was a perfectly circular mark in the center of the coin (3-4 mm in diameter). One of the consignors mentioned that these marks were caused by mechanical counting machines of the time. Whether this is correct I do not know for sure, but it is a logical explanation.

All in all, the Barber Dime series is an ideal starting point for anyone thinking of becoming involved with Barber coins. Most of the series in grades AG through Fine is very reasonably priced. Even many in VF and XF are downright cheap. Many dates/mintmarks are quite scarce in mid to higher grades and will prove a challenge to locate.

My Very First Barbers (or, How I Loved ‘Coin Corner’)

by **Steve Hustad**

I remember it well, even though it was about 35 years ago, and I was just a teenager. I’d been casually collecting coins for maybe three or four years - mainly because my two uncles had gotten me started. One uncle used to give me a mint set & proof set every year for Christmas and my birthday. But one day, my other uncle showed me his collection culled from circulation (I didn’t even know he’d collected until then), and handed over a few Liberty Head nickels to me from his stash. This then recurred nearly every time I visited. Oh, that mystical and wonderful stash! To a teen, it was a big deal. Just imagine – these came from circulation! And besides, all we had at that time was about five or six years of clad junk (the silver had disappeared in 1965 of course – taking with it any coins of interest), and leaving no hope of finding much worthy of keeping in my change. But those slick, worn-down Liberty Head nickels were really impressive.

Up to that point, I too had collected from circulation, building sets of Jefferson nickels and Lincoln cents by going to the bank and buying rolls, and sacks of ‘just counted’ coins that had come from vending machines, and so on. But, oh, those Liberty Head nickels were something really different, and something far more appealing to me. I was hooked (though I didn’t realize it until later).

Fast-forward a few months, and I had my first summer job (pretty much as a ‘gopher’ at an architectural firm), and was making some money. This firm was located in downtown Minneapolis, so over lunch I’d sometimes take a walk up to the Nicollet Mall and look around. The Mall was the main commercial strip downtown at that time (and still is for the most part, though many retail businesses have now moved to the suburbs, giving way to even more offices, as well as the more recent and booming downtown condo market). One day very early that first summer I came across a coin shop called “Coin Corner” located about a third the way up on the mall’s west side. Coin Corner was located on the ground floor of a four or five story (or was it three stories?) brick building, and was situated on a corner (of course!). Now by this time I’d amassed about eight or ten different Liberty Head nickels from my uncle (averaging probably “Good to Very Good” condition, with the odd AG piece thrown in for good measure). I was interested in seeing what they had that I needed to fill a space, and that I could afford.

I walked in and the place was pretty much devoid of other customers except maybe one other, and I recall two people who worked there (I’d get to know

them quite well in the coming months). The owner of the shop was a thin, younger guy, maybe about 30 to 35. He had an assistant (his wife?) who was gorgeous, and regularly helped nuisance customers (like me), who didn't have much money to spend, but who always wanted to look over a lot of stock before buying a few cheap pieces.

On my first trip inside, I didn't talk to anyone, but spent a half hour or so looking through their display cases, operating the push buttons to revolve the trays up, through, and down so everything could be looked at. We're all familiar with this kind of case, I'm sure. I'd never seen such nice coins before! My uncle's collection from circulation was nice, and still exciting, but here were coins from the same era that looked NEW! How's THAT possible I wondered? (Okay, I wasn't the brightest kid in the world.) I was as excited as I'd ever been over a new discovery (or maybe it was the assistant?), but in either case, I left with their price list (ahhh, Coin Corner's "list" – I'd almost forgotten about that!) and went home to make my own lists.

At that time I was interested in starting a modest type collection. My lists would specify dates and types in the grades I thought I could afford if they had them in stock. (I was AMAZED at what they did have in stock when they brought out those long, low, double row boxes.) I must have made hundreds of lists. I couldn't believe that so many Barber coins were available at great prices I could afford. I'd seen some in the cases and was hooked on those being my first purchases here.

So, the next time I was downtown and had a lunch hour free, I was back at Coin Corner with my list. The man smiled when he saw me walk in, and waved his assistant over to help me (astutely recognizing a time wasting customer right off the bat no doubt!). She brought out the big boxes containing the lower grade Barbers that I was interested that first time. I dragged out my well-thumbed lists. I pulled up a stool to the counter and was in heaven. An hour would go by so fast (maybe not to them though!). And my first request was a 1911 Barber dime, quarter and half dollar in Very Good condition.

This date held some odd appeal to me. Probably the combination of age, price, availability (common) and just the excitement of something I'd never seen circulate actually being available for the purchase. Who knew? They were also my very first Barbers. I remember that day that the dime was not a problem for them to find in VG, and neither was the quarter, but the half I had to settle for in Good. They were all "P" mint coins of course, and were the start of my Barber collecting. I was hooked. Coin Corner's owner and assistant got to know me after awhile, and would automatically reach for the Barbers. By the end of that first summer, I'd also bought the 1908 and 1912 dated "P" mint pieces in similar

grades. Sometimes, when looking for a specific date group, they wouldn't have a coin in Good, or Very Good, and would offer a Fine piece instead, but I'd have to pass, being just a kid with not a lot of money. (At the time I also had to 'squirrel' a certain percentage of the money I earned away toward college).

Over the years Coin Corner became a destination for me. After the summer job ended, I'd still go back downtown as often as I could manage with school and all, but then it would have to be on weekends and I'd have to take the bus instead of ride in and back with my dad (who worked downtown).

The proprietor and his assistant came to know my modest want lists and would try to steer me toward better purchases, not to fatten their pockets necessarily, but to teach me some value lessons in regards to coin collecting. They didn't have to do that, but looking back now, they were pretty patient and generous with me. I got to know that comfortable stool, the counter, the black padded tray I'd hold the coin over when considering a coin, and that dark inviting shop pretty well.

Sadly, Coin Corner closed its doors while I was in college, and is now gone. Even today I can sometimes recall the distinctly pleasant smell that Coin Corner had and the look of the owner smiling as he waved me over to the familiar stool. But most of all, I got to know those long, low, double row boxes that they'd bring out from the mysterious and seemingly endless vaults in the back. Each just bursting with those very cool Barbers in their individual envelopes...wow!



2006 BCCS Literary Contest Results

Congratulations to last year's Literary Contest winners! Ballot results are below. Our 2007 contest opens with this issue.

1st Place - \$50 - "Share Your Passion for Collecting Barber Coins" by Dan Flood

2nd Place - \$25 - "Investment Spotlight: Circulated Barber Quarters" by Rich Dula

3rd Place tie - 1 year FREE BCCS membership - "Barbers in General" by Joseph Cabral and "My Favorite Barbers" by Bud Roman

"The Barber Quarter Census and Rarity Survey Results" actually received the most votes but, upon reflection, Phil, John, and I determined that while this article was much appreciated by the membership, it was outside the scope of the contest.

Barber Quarter Dollar Mint Mark Positions and Reverse Varieties 1892 – 1900

by **William Cowburn**

Barber quarter dollars of 1892 through 1900 have gradually become one of my favorite numismatic areas to collect. My fondness for the quarters of this era derives mainly from the significant variations that exist in the placement of the mintmark on Barber quarter dollars between 1892 and 1897, as well as the changes in reverse ‘types’ that occurred in 1892 and 1900. Of course, by limiting the time period of my interest to the range 1892 through 1900, it is also possible to avoid the major costs that would be required for acquiring the 1901-S and the 1913-S issues.

This series of articles will explain the Type 1, 2 and 3 reverses, examine the major differences in mintmark position that are known for each date from this time period, and relate the author’s degree of difficulty in finding the various issues.

As students of the Barber quarter dollar are well aware, during the course of the series, the reverse employed 3 different ‘types’. These changes created different ‘varieties’ in the series rather than ‘types’, but the term ‘type’ has been used for so long that this article will continue to use that terminology.

The reverse ‘types’ can be identified by the relationship of the eagle’s wingtip to the letters ‘T’ and ‘E’ in UNITED. The Type 1 reverse was only used at the beginning of 1892 and can be recognized by the amount of the letter ‘E’ that is covered by the wingtip. However, the author finds it easier to recognize the difference between Type 1 and Type 2 reverses by looking at the base of the ‘T’ in UNITED rather than trying to judge what percentage of the ‘E’ is covered by the wingtip. If the right base of the ‘T’ is covered by the wingtip, then it is a Type 1 reverse. If the right base of the ‘T’ is completely showing, then it is a Type 2 reverse.



TYPE 1 REVERSE



TYPE 2 REVERSE

The author finds it easier to recognize the difference between Type 1 and Type 2 reverses by looking at the base of the 'T' in UNITED rather than trying to judge what percentage of the 'E' is covered by the wingtip. If the right base of the 'T' is covered by the wingtip, then it is a Type 1 reverse. If the right base of the 'T' is completely showing, then it is a Type 2 reverse.

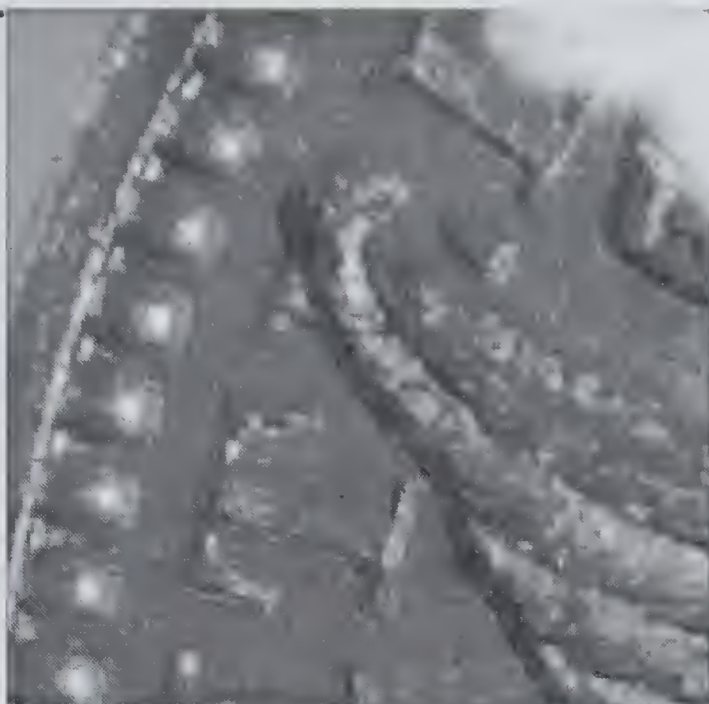
The Type 2 reverse was employed from 1892 through the beginning of 1900. It appears that Charles Barber originally designed a coin that did not stack properly – the Type 1 of 1892. How well a coin stacked would become an argument that Barber would use years later to criticize the work of Augustus Saint-Gaudens when Saint-Gaudens began a redesign of United States coinage at the behest of President Theodore Roosevelt. As Charles Barber knew all too well from his own experience in 1892, too high of relief on the coin – just what the artist and the President wanted in 1907 – would cause problems in the banking system. Because the new quarter dollar of 1892 was not stacking properly, the relief was lowered during 1892 and the Type 2 reverse came into existence.

During 1900, the reverse design was modified again because the Type 2 coins were thinner than the Type 1 original coins. It was reported that 21 of the Type 2 coins were needed to stack as high as 20 of the Type 1 originals. This modification can easily be identified by observing the tip of the eagle's left wingtip. On the Type 3 reverse, the wingtip extends beyond the top the 'E' in UNITED where previously on the Type 2 reverse the wingtip ended flush with the top of the 'E.' (See photo on page 15.)

What this means is that for Barber Quarter Dollars of 1892 we have Type 1 and Type 2 varieties from all 3 mints that struck quarter dollars that year – Philadelphia, New Orleans and San Francisco. In 1900 we have the same situation

where Type 2 and Type 3 varieties are available from each of the same 3 mints.

Photo of TYPE 3 REVERSE: On the Type 3 reverse, the wingtip extends beyond the top the 'E' in UNITED where previously on the Type 2 reverse the wingtip ended flush with the top of the 'E.'



How difficult is it to locate each of the Types from each of the 3 mints? What about the mintmark positions during this time period?

Which years have noticeable variations in the placement of the mintmark and how difficult is it to find varieties with different mintmark locations? This series of articles will attempt to answer those questions while at the same time requesting that other members share their experiences in finding these varieties if they have found a particular variety either easier or more difficult to locate than the author.

It is not the intention of the author to examine all of the Misplaced Dates, Repunched Dates, Doubled Dies, etc. that exist for these years. Instead the focus will be on the Type 1, 2 and 3 Reverses as well as significant changes in mintmark position. However, some additional varieties will be mentioned that the author found interesting along the way.

1892 Business Strikes – Type 1 vs. Type 2 Reverses

The Philadelphia issue is more difficult to find in Type 1 than in Type 2, with only about 1 out of every 3 or 4 business strike coins examined by the author being the Type 1 reverse. Please note that this rate of availability in Type 1 is significantly different from the rate noted in an article by Frank Van Valen that was republished in Volume 17, Number 4 issue of the *Journal* of the Barber Coin Collectors' Society. The original article by Frank was published in the May 10, 2004 issue of "The Numismatic Perspective" and in that article Frank indicated that in his experience, only about 1 out of every 25 1892-P quarters and only about 1 in every 30 1892-O quarters that he examined were Type 1. These rates were far lower than what I had experienced, so I sent an e-mail to Frank asking if perhaps there was a typo in the original article. Frank replied that there must have been a typo as he believes that about 15% (one out of 6 or 7) of the 1892-P quarters that he examines are Type 1. He also qualified his numbers by stating that this percentage applies to VG through VF grades as that is what he collects.

I decided to do some digging in the internet based auction archives at Heritage Auction Galleries to put some hard numbers behind what my own experience was telling me about the frequency of Type 1 quarter availability. My own guess of 1 out of 4 1892-P quarters being Type 1 was simply based on an approximation of what I thought I saw in the past – not based upon any real numbers that I kept track of. It was time to go beyond a ‘seat of the pants’ guess on my part and time to quantify what has been sold in the past.

Using historical data available through Heritage Auction Galleries, the author was able to look at photos of 240 1892-P Barber quarter dollars that ranged in grade from EF through MS68 with an average grade of about MS62. Approximately 30% of those 240 coins were Type 1 reverse issues. The average grade of the coins sold in these auctions is significantly higher than what Frank Van Valen was reporting on, but the availability of a Type 1 1892-P quarter is clearly higher than 1 out of every 25 which would only amount to 4%.

The 1892 New Orleans issue was found with approximately 40% of 1892 coins examined comprising Type 1 and 60% of 1892 coins examined having Type 2 reverses. Again, taking advantage of Heritage Auction Archives, the author found 92 1892-O Barber quarter dollars with photos that were sold from 1999 to the present. The 1892-O Mint issues ranged in grade from EF through MS66 and again averaged about MS2.

The 1892 San Francisco issue was found almost equally divided between the Type 1 and Type 2 reverse styles. The 2nd Edition of *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters* by David Lawrence lists the 1892-S as being more commonly found with a Type 1 reverse and the data does slightly favor the Type 1, but not significantly so. However, only 48 total 1892-S quarters were found in the auction archives dating back to 1999. This seems to be the most difficult to find of the 3 issues in 1892. Please see the Table at the end of the article for more details on the data found in Heritage’s auction archives. The numbers were adjusted to remove any duplication where the same coin (as determined by the serial number on the third party grading company slab) was sold by Heritage more than one time.

1892-O and 1892-S – Mintmark Positions

All of the mintmarks are punched far to the left on the 1892-O and 1892-S quarters. The mintmark is actually centered under the eagle’s tail feathers and directly above the ‘R’ in QUARTER, yet that is as far to the left that the mintmark was punched into the die for this series. In fact, this is the only year that the mintmark is found in that far left location.

While the mintmark is centered under the eagle’s tail feathers in 1892, this

location did not leave much room for the mint worker to punch in the mintmark. The space between the bottom of the eagle's tail feathers and the top of the 'R' in QUARTER is the narrowest space available underneath the eagle's tail feathers on the reverse. With such a limited amount of room to manually punch in the mintmark, it seems quite likely that too many dies would have been ruined by accidentally punching the mintmark into the tail feathers or into the 'R' in QUARTER. See the photo showing the top of the 'S' mintmark punched too high in the tail feathers.



Compare the upper left photo showing the top of the 'S' mintmark punched too high in the tail feathers with the upper right photo showing a normal 'S' mintmark.

Too many errors like this would eventually necessitate a change in the location of the mintmark. Is this why the mintmark was later moved to the far right over the 'D' in DOLLAR and then eventually to the center position between QUARTER and DOLLAR?

By 1893, we see some Barber Quarter Dollars with the mintmark in the far right position – over the 'D' in DOLLAR. By moving the mintmark to the far right position, additional room was available for the mintmark to be punched into the die. This is because the tail feathers sweep up and away from the letter 'D.' After 1892, no other dates are found with the mintmark in the far left position.

As the first year of issue, business strikes are fairly available and are easily found in higher grades due to the saving of a new issue. However, as noted above, the 1892-S is found far less frequently than the Philadelphia or New Orleans issues of 1892.

1892 Proof – Type 1 and Type 2 Reverses

As a proof issue, the 1892 has the highest mintage of the entire series at 1,245 coins. However, it seems that the Type 1 Proof is really quite scarce to rare (at least in the author's experience). David Lawrence simply states that the Type 1 is scarcer than the Type 2 in both business strike as well as proof. The Type 1 proof Barber Quarter seems to be a delightful sleeper in this series. Since so few collectors are looking for both a Type 1 and a Type 2 Proof 1892 for their collection, the lack of demand has kept the prices down for this scarce to rare Type 1 coin. As of the date this article was written, Heritage Numismatic Galleries auction archives lists sales of 95 Proof 1892 Barber Quarters dating back over 10 years. The author has been able to identify only 2 Type 1 Proofs out of this group of coins with a 3rd one identified in the auction as having the Type 1 Reverse, but the photo clearly showed this 3rd coin had a Type 2 Reverse.

The Barber Quarter Dollars of 1892 offer ample opportunity for the collector to expand beyond simply collecting one from each mint – To get each of the Type 1 and Type 2 business strikes, you will need 6 coins and if you go for the proof issues, that adds 2 more coins to your collection. However, the next few dates in the series add even more interesting varieties to enhance your collection. The next installment of this article will examine the mintmark positions that are available on Type 2 coins and the relative scarcity of each variety.

TABLE – 1892 Quarter Dollars

Philadelphia Business Strikes

Type 1 Reverse	76 Coins	31.7% of 1892-P	MS64 Median Grade
Type 2 Reverse	164 Coins	68.3% of 1892-P	MS60 Median Grade
Of the 240 1892-P coins, 86 were graded EF or AU			

New Orleans Issues

Type 1 Reverse	40 Coins	43.5% of 1892-O	MS63 Median Grade
Type 2 Reverse	52 Coins	56.5% of 1892-O	MS62 Median Grade
Of the 92 1892-O coins, 34 were graded EF or AU			

San Francisco Issues

Type 1 Reverse	26 Coins	54.2% of 1892-S	MS60 Median Grade
Type 2 Reverse	22 Coins	45.8% of 1892-S	AU55 Median Grade
Of the 48 1892-S coins, 26 were graded EF or AU			

Barber Bits

2007 FUN Show

The BCCS had an informal meeting at January's FUN Show in Orlando. Ten people came to the meeting and, for the first time in memory, there were no first timers. Most were members, but we had a few guests too, and all had either been to one our meetings at the ANA or at last year's FUN Show. I will admit it was strange not to spend part of the meeting telling newcomers about the BCCS.

We discussed numerous topics, including the difficulty of finding nice Barbers at the show. Most people had not had much success, although one attendee had found an 1892-O half at the show. We also discussed whether to once again try having an email list of BCCS members on a purely voluntary basis, and how to broaden our membership base. I personally think these will be good discussion topics for our Annual Meeting at the ANA in Milwaukee this summer.

The meeting ended with our usual round of "Show and Tell," during which a couple of members shared some of their interesting Barbers or recent finds.

One of our newer members who was unable to attend the meeting had better luck at the FUN Show. He writes, "I just started collecting in November of last year and I had a field day. I got 7 dimes, 19 quarters - including a 93-S, 97-O, 97-S and 01-O, and 15 halves including a 96-S and 08-S. All were in AU 50-58."

Here's hoping his good luck keeps going!



Barber Quarter Census Correction

There is one correction that should be made to the Barber Quarter Census

from last year. Due to a tallying error on my part, an AU 1901-S Quarter that had been submitted had incorrectly been counted in the Mint State category. This was confirmed when I double-checked the count. As a result, there was a lone AU specimen reported, so the entry for AU should be changed from 0 to 1, and the number of MS pieces should be reduced from 5 to 4. This has been corrected on the web site, both in the counts, and in the article as published. My apologies for the error.



Barber Half Census and Rarity Survey Update

The current Census and Rarity Survey for Barber Halves that is now in progress is getting good responses, both from our members and also a number of guest submissions via our website. The project will be listed in the next edition of *FUN Topics*, the quarterly publication of Florida United Numismatists, of which there are thousands of members all over the country. Hopefully this will lead to additional survey submissions. If you have not already done so, please return your paper survey form to Eileen or submit your responses using one of the two easy methods on our website. Thanks!



I came across this 1906-S Half that is counterstamped on both sides with different numbers inside the large “D.” I seem to recall seeing something like this before but, after searching through the Journals, I found nothing. Perhaps this is an inspector’s punch from the second World War. Airplane parts or weapons? If anyone else has seen something similar, I would like to hear about it. The fact that this coin is a higher grade makes me unsure of the time frame. Hope to hear other members’ feedback.

Regards, Steve Szczerbiak



Photos of the 1906-S Barber Half that is counterstamped on both sides.



Dear Ms. Ribar,

Thank you for the copy of the Barber Coin Collector's Society Journal which reprinted my article on Charles Barber's pattern coin collection.

I noticed the same issue included an article about the reverse design changes. Attached is a transcript of Charles Barber's explanation for changes in the 1892 quarter design - specifically, rearrangement of the stars and inscription... The part referring to Saint-Gaudens was referenced in my Renaissance of American Coinage 1905-08 book.

Roger W. Burdette

Source: NARA-CP. RG-104, entry 229, box 234. Letter dated August 24, 1905 to Director of the Mint [George Roberts] from Albert A. Norris, acting superintendent, Philadelphia Mint.

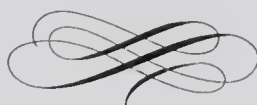
Sir:

In accordance with your verbal request of the 21st instant I asked the Engraver for a statement relative to the change in the design of the quarter dollar and he has supplied me with the following information:

As it was decided to change the subsidiary coins for 1892, the Director of the Mint, Mr. Leech, advertised for designs and many were sent in, but Mr. St. Gaudens, who was appointed one of the committee to pass upon the designs, objected to everything submitted. Therefore, Mr. Leech called

upon the Engraving Department of this Mint to prepare designs and have the dies ready for the New Year 1892. There were only a few weeks to do the work and no time to prove the dies or make alterations. The instructions were to strike some coins and make such alterations as would be found necessary afterward. The change in the quarter dollar was made because the border was originally quite narrow and it was claimed the coin did not stack well with the old design, which had a very broad border. The border was therefore increased, leaving less room for the inscription and stars and necessitating a rearrangement of the stars.

*Respectfully,
/s/ Albert A. Norris*



BCCS Treasurer's Annual Report

Opening balance January 1, 2006 **\$7691.82**

Receipts

Dues	3180.00	
Advertising	670.00	
Back issues	78.00	
Bank interest	0.91	
Total		\$3928.91

Total funds available: **\$11,620.73**

Expenses

Journal production	2273.95	(Vol. 16, #4 + Vol. 17, #1-4)
Postage	1147.02	
Literary prizes	75.00	
ANA dues	36.00	
FUN dues	15.00	
Website	99.37	(for '05-'06 & '06-'07)
Bank charges	60.00	
Total		\$3706.34

Closing balance December 31, 2006 **\$7914.39**

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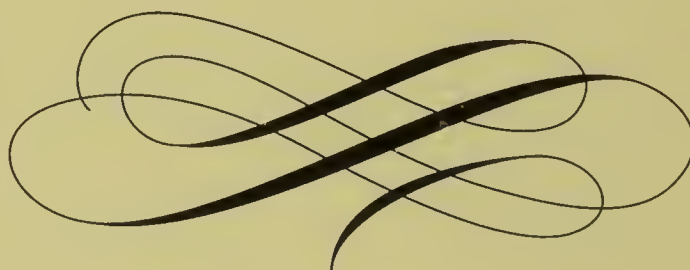
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1 page	1 issue.....\$70	4 issues.....\$250
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1 page outside rear cover	1 issue...\$125	4 issues.....\$400